



# Press release

PB02-188  
16 September 2002  
9:30 AM

www.cbs.nl

Statistics Netherlands  
is a department of  
the Ministry of  
Economic Affairs

## ***Potato crop up slightly***

The potato crop is expected to be just over five billion kilos this year, 3 percent more than in 2001. The yield per hectare is also slightly higher than last year according to figures from Statistics Netherlands, although it is about the same as the average in the last five years. The figures are based on information from the beginning of September and therefore do not take account of areas that will not be harvested because of the weather. Statistics Netherlands expects a record crop of sown onions.

## ***Fewer potatoes on sandy ground***

One hectare of land yielded an average 45 kilos of potatoes for consumption and seed potatoes in 2002, slightly more than last year. Areas with sandy and peat soil yielded significantly fewer potatoes than in 2001, while the yield per hectare on clay was slightly higher. It is the first time since 1998 that the average yield of sandy ground is lower than that of clay. The total potato crop on sandy and peat soil is 8 percent lower this year than in 2001, that on clay land is 6 percent higher.

## ***More onions***

The estimate crop of onions this year is 15 percent higher than last year. The gross production is expected to be 880 million kilos. Nearly 15 thousand hectares were used to grow onions in 2002, more than one and a half times the area in 1990. Onion growers will harvest an average 60 thousand kilos of onions per hectare, while this was ten percent lower last year. Crops of sown onions fluctuate strongly from year to year.

The yields per hectare differ strongly between regions, too. In the province of Flevoland where half of sown onions are grown, the average production is 12 percent higher than in the country as a whole. Flevoland thus leaves its mark on the national crop. Moreover the area devoted to sown onions in Flevoland is increasing more strongly than elsewhere.

For further information please contact the press office.

Tel. +31 70 337 58 16

Fax +31 70 337 59 71

E-mail: [persdienst@cbs.nl](mailto:persdienst@cbs.nl)